

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MAY 15, 2007

HEPATITIS A VACCINATIONS

On March 6, 2007, the Board approved my motion instructing the Director of Public Health to prepare a report for the Board concerning the question of whether Hepatitis A vaccinations should be required for food service workers in restaurants, catering companies, and in wholesale markets. My motion was based on a recent case of Hepatitis A in a cook for a major catering company, which demonstrated the major impact that this food-borne disease can have on restaurants, catering companies and consumers. By the time that this food preparation worker had been diagnosed, thousands of attendees at various events had been put at some risk of acquiring Hepatitis A.

The Director of Public Health submitted his report on May 3, 2007. County Counsel has found that it appears that the County is pre-empted from imposing a universal vaccination requirement for food service workers.

The new State Retail Food Code does require mandatory reporting by food facilities to the local health officer of food service workers with certain symptoms of gastrointestinal illness, and Public Health has recommended that it will reinforce this new mandatory reporting requirement through communications, trainings and technical assistance consultations.

MOTION

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Burke _____

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However, the local health officer should have the power to require preventive Hepatitis A vaccinations for food service workers.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors sponsor legislation which will amend the California Retail Food Code to permit the local health officer, to require Hepatitis A vaccinations for food service workers in restaurants, catering companies and in wholesale markets in order to protect the health of consumers.

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